

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

May 11, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

Dr. Dan Blower, Chair
Tim Yungfer, Vice Chair
Fred Bueter
Sharon Conklin
Dave Goller
Walter Heinritzi
Capt. Mike Krumm
Charles Moser
Tom O'Brien
Michael Prince
Robert Ramels

Commissioners Absent

None

Guests

Al Newell
Chuck Simmons
Michelle Zemla
Larry Fennell
Lawrence Archer
John Wallace
Dan Haggerty
Bobby Gwizdz

OHSP Staff

Janet Hengesbach
Charlotte Kilvington
Julie Roth
Heidi Ruis
Spencer Simmons
Alicia Sledge

ROLL CALL

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. Dan Blower, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions were made by those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** to accept the March 9, 2016 minutes was made by Mr. Ramels and supported by Mr. O'Brien. The **MOTION** carries.

EDUCATION GRANT

Mr. Newell reported they are exceeding their goals in all categories. They have made 371 demonstrations at 12 different events, but once fair season begins, this number will increase. They have presented before 896 training session attendees and have distributed 12,871 copies of the 16th Edition of the Truck Drivers Handbook.

Mr. Newell requested to re-budget of \$100,000.00. Because the Michigan Center for Decision Driving (MCDD) is closed for now; there will be no scholarships this year. He outlined some items which can be taken care of with these monies.

He was also asked by the Commission to develop a communications plan. Approximately \$30,000 of the re-budgeted monies would be dedicated for this plan.

Ms. Laurie Cunningham from Queue Advertising made a presentation regarding a possible communication plan for the Michigan Center for Truck Safety (MCTS). Ms. Cunningham went on to highlight some of the larger components to this plan.

Commissioners discussed Mr. Newell's request to rebudget current monies which are already in the

budget and dedicated for the MCDD but since it is closed; these monies can be used for other items within the MCTS.

Mr. Bueter made a **MOTION** to approve the internal rebudgeting in the amount of \$100,000.00. Mr. Ramels supported. The **MOTION** carried.

STANDING REPORTS

A.Chair's Report – Dr. Dan Blower

Dr. Blower briefly discussed FMCSA was recently directed to reconsider data which they collect for medium/heavy truck crashes relative to the Fast Act. They are to ascertain how well the current data, including truck configuration, and any additional data collected will turn out, how well states are attempting to collect the data and if it is feasible to collect certain data on truck size and weight issues. The committee will meet further to make recommendations for the future.

The National Academy of Sciences is working on a study to reconsider and evaluate the Compliance Safety and Accountability program to identify unsafe carriers for interventions. Goals of the study include evaluating how effective the existing program is at identifying unsafe carriers and how accurate the measures are for different sets of carriers. The study is just starting up and could take 18 months to complete. He would like to hear from anyone regarding their concerns. Captain Krumm mentioned that accident reporting is an issue when carriers are held responsible for a crash when they should not be. He has seen documents where it is clear the truck driver is not at fault. This is more of an issue for the smaller carriers.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Capt. Mike Krumm, Michigan State Police – CVED will experience six retirements between April/May. There is another recruit school scheduled to begin in August. The westbound Ionia Scales may be getting a facelift, and discussions are ongoing whether to bring in a back-up radio tower for this location.

Mr. Tim Yungfer – General Public – no report

Mr. Fred Bueter, Michigan Department of State – The Secretary of State office continues to send out reminders that a legal presence needs to be noted on CDL driving records. They have been reminding the CMV drivers with notices and other means of correspondence. Mr. Newell indicated that they remind the drivers of this provision at events and during phone inquiries.

There is a provision in MAP-21 regarding whether a farmer needs to have a CDL or endorsement to operate a covered farm vehicle on roadways. Currently, the State of Michigan requires farmers to have an endorsement when operating vehicles within a 150-mile radius of their farm. There will be more information forthcoming on this item.

Mr. Bob Ramels, General Public – No report.

Mr. Mike Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning – OHSP was notified that the crash data recently released shows a 10% increase in fatalities in 2015. CMV fatalities are down 19% however. Mike and the staff will review the numbers and also work with UMTRI on this information.

The recent Drive Sober, Get Pulled Over campaign was a success. 563 impaired drivers were arrested on overtime patrols. Of that, 102 were charged with high BAC. The next enforcement is the summer seat belt campaign to start before Memorial Day

Mike briefly explained the Project Status update document which is included in today's packet. It summarizes and updates any MTSC projects currently funded, projects just completed and projects which are on hold.

Mr. Tom O'Brien, Michigan Community Colleges – No report

Mr. Dave Goller – no report

Ms. Sharon Conklin, Private Motor Carriers – Private Motor Carriers are in support of a new skid pad. The West Michigan Safety Group is hosting an event at the Ionia scales. There will be inspections held on the trucks, and other events. The MTA is hosting its annual Truck Competition on June 10-11 at LCC in West Lansing with dinner at the Crowne Plaza.

Mr. Charles Moser, Transportation Commission – no report

Mr. Walt Heinritzi – no report

B. Financial Report – Mr. Spencer Simmons

Mr. Simmons reviewed the most recent financial report through April 30, 2016 including revenue and expenditure projections, UCR and carryforward monies. Spencer explained that he has spoken with MSP Budget Division to find a different way to carry-forward the UCR fees rather than through the MTSC budget as it makes it seem like MSP CVED has more money that it actually does.

C. Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Captain Krumm, MSP, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division

Captain Krumm reported that during 2nd quarter, there was a lower use of hours. He reported that STET, DDACTS, and TZD are the three ways they are using their funding. They have also recently purchased equipment for the patrol vehicles. A recruit school just graduated and the CVIEW and INSPECT programs should be up and running by late summer.

PRESENTATIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. Skid Pad

Dr. Blower facilitated a discussion outlining important points for this project. He thanked Mr. Heinritzi for a good proposal. The commissioners agree the skid pad is a desirable project and needed for stakeholders, trucking industry, etc.

How do we get to a new skid pad? There are the financial aspects. This would be a large capital cost project. Another item of importance is a site. Being geographically located where most of the drivers and trucking activity is important. Also, who would own the land, and what are the implications of leasing again?

The capital costs appear to be more than the Commission can afford. There are statutory amounts that are to be distributed yearly for education and enforcement. If this project were to be undertaken, the CVED funding would have to be cut back to its minimum and the MCTS would likely be closed. The financial implication of building a skid pad would severely strain the Commission's budget. Any research projects would have to be given up.

Dr. Blower briefly mentioned the test facility in Willow Run which is in a partnership with General Motors. He has spoken with the new director of the facility briefly discussing the Commission's plan to possibly build a skid pad.

In his view, an external source of funds is necessary. Suggestions for major sources would be to approach the legislature, or speak with corporate partners such as the trucking industry. State donated land would be another option.

Mike Prince suggested forming a Skid pad work group to assist with moving this project forward. This could be comprised of commissioners, non-commissioners, etc. but with no more than 5 commissioners. Mike and Spencer would serve but are unable to participate in legislative lobbying.

Mike Prince and Tim Yungfer will meet with DTMB real estate division director to see what if, anything is available with regard to state owned land. Commissioners are to send a message to Dan if they are interested in serving on this work group.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.